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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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July 20, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – JEAN LORES
GROUP HOMES, VERNON AVENUE AND PURCHE GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Vernon Avenue (Vernon) and Purche Avenue (Purche) Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Jean Lores Group Homes, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Vernon Group home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys and girls ages 9-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Vernon Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Purche is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Purche Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Vernon Group Home is located in the Second District. Purche Group Home is located in the Fifth District.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address the following deficient areas:

Both Group Homes need to clean the ceiling and the bathtub grout in the bathrooms; and provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

Vernon Group Home needs to provide adequate storage space; replace a worn mattress; maintain current court authorizations and ensure that children taking psychotropic medications are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist; and properly maintain medication logs.

Purche Group Home needs to clean the entryway ceiling; clean the stove hood; clean the window coverings and window sill in the kitchen; and repair the wall around the kitchen sink.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdh
http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Delores Miguel, Executive Director, Jean Lores Group Homes
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Jean Lores Group Homes
Vernon Avenue Group Home
1867 West Vernon Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90062
Phone: (323) 294-3041
License Number: 191801275
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Vernon Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and there is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the bathroom ceiling and bathtub grout have mold and mildew.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and have age appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the bedrooms. The beds all have a full complement of linens and children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. However, one of the mattresses in bedroom one is worn and sagging, and the closets do not provide sufficient storage space for the children's belongings.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Jean Lores Group Homes management:

- a. Clean the bathroom ceiling and bathtub grout.**
- b. Replace the worn mattress in bedroom one.**
- c. Provide adequate storage space for the children's belongings.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

One child does not have a current court authorization for the psychotropic medication she is taking, and there is no documentation to confirm that she is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs for one child are not properly maintained.

Recommendations

2. Jean Lores Group Home management:

- a. Maintain current court authorizations for all children who are taking psychotropic medication.**
- b. Ensure that all children taking psychotropic medication are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.**

c. Properly maintain medication logs for all children.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However one child is not provided with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

3. **Jean Lores Group Homes management provide all children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**

**Jean Lores Group Homes
Purche Avenue Group Home
13501 Purche Avenue
Gardena, California 90249
Phone: (310) 514-1771
License Number: 198203189
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Purche Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the ceiling in the entryway is stained. In the bathroom, the grout around the bathtub has mold and mildew. In the kitchen, the stove hood is greasy, window coverings and window sills are dirty, and the wall around the sink is damaged.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. However, in bedroom two there are stains on the ceiling. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Jean Lores Group Homes management:

- a. Clean or paint the ceilings in the entryway and in bedroom two.**
- b. Clean the bathroom.**
- c. Clean the stove hood.**

- d. Clean the window coverings and window sill in the kitchen.
- e. Repair the wall area around the kitchen sink.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However one child is not provided with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

2. Jean Lores Group Homes management provide all children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

Jean Lores Group Homes, Inc.

1867 W. Vernon Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90062 (323) 294-3041 Fax (323) 294-7139

May 12, 2006

Candace Rhue, GH Audit Supervisor
L A County Department of Audit Controller
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street, Rm 515-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

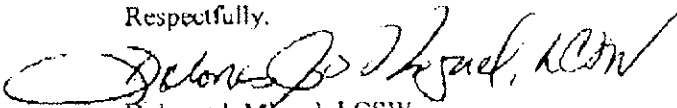
Ms. Rhue:

Attached please find the CAP in response to the March 2006 audit(s) on both of our site locations conducted by your office. I have since met with our staffs to address the concerns and establish a course of action to prevent any subsequent violations. Regarding facility and environment, all repairs with exception of structural work scheduled within the next thirty days, are completed. The manager and additionally designated staff are required to complete a monthly checklist which includes areas of deficits. This checklist is routed to administration, monthly, and retained for documented follow-up. Any needed repairs are scheduled within that month. It is intended that all actions will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained.

Allowance recommendations were immediately resolved and so documented by upgrading weekly amounts. The group home monitor, assigned by DCFS, to ensure that the corrective action plan remains implemented is Scott Song.

Feel free to contact me at the above numbers or on my cell phone # . I'm available at your request.

Respectfully,


Dolores J. Miguel, LCSW
Executive Director

Encls./ Items faxed
CC: Scott Song, Group Home Monitor
djrm

JEAN LORES GROUP HOME #1

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

SITE LOCATION: 1867 W. Vernon Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90062
Facility Lic.#: 191801275

I. Facility and Environment -

1. Management complies as follows:

- a. The bathroom ceiling is cleaned and re-painted. The bath tub and tile areas are steamed cleaned to thoroughly remove all mold and mildew from the grout.
- b. The worn mattress in bedroom #1 has been replaced.
- c. Several estimates to re-do interior bedroom closets are obtained. Work will be completed on or before 06/25/06.

V. Psychotropic Medication -

1. Management complies as follows:

- a. All current court authorizations for all children who are prescribed psychotropic medication, including those followed by their school, are retained and will be maintained by routine monthly monitoring.
- b. All of the residents who are prescribed psychotropic medication are routinely seen and so document on internal records by the prescribing psychiatrist.
- c. Medication logs will be routinely checked at monthly staffings to insure proper maintenance of records.

VII. Clothing and Allowance -

1. Management complies as follows:

- a. All resident allowances are immediately upgraded to minimum weekly amounts of \$7.00.


5/12/06

JEAN LORES GROUP HOME #2

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

SITE LOCATION: 13501 Purche Avenue
Gardena, CA 90249
Facility Lic.# : 198203189

I. Facility and Environment -

1. Management complies as follows:

- a. The ceiling at the entryway has been re-painted.
- b. The bath tub and tile areas are steamed cleaned to thoroughly remove all mold and mildew from the grout.
- c. The greasy build-up from around the stove hood has been cleaned.
- d. The window covering and window sill in the kitchen have been cleaned.
- e. The wall area around the kitchen sink will be repaired on or before 06/25/06.
- f. The ceiling in bedroom #2 has been re-painted.

VII. Clothing and Allowance -

1. Management complies as follows:

- a. All resident allowances are immediately upgraded to minimum weekly amounts of \$7.00.

[Signature]
05/12/06